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Celebrity p/18

Shania healing through song, son



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Cops: Incidents at Stampede down by half

DECREASE City cops are acknowledging a community effort for an almost 50 per cent decrease in incidents at the Calgary Stampede.

Police responded to 56 incidents including assault and theft during the 2008 Stampede, a 47 per cent decrease from the year before, Insp. Guy Slater said.

"It's a significant decrease and it's the result of a proactive policing approach. It's also key to acknowledge the partnerships that also made it possible," he said, adding the Calgary Stampede, bylaw and transit officials were also to thank.

METRO CALGARY

Beijing Games page 8

Bros follow in Olympic-sized footprints

Automotive page 11



Rick checks out the Batmobile

Watch footage at metronews.ca

Watch extended video selections from Omar Khadr's Guantanamo interrogation at metronews.ca.



Calgary firefighter Gord Toothe reunites with one-week old Lucas Welz, whom Toothe delivered in an emergency call at a Calgary home last week. Check out video of the reunion online at metronews.ca.

Newborn reunion

Calgary firefighter meets the baby he delivered

NEIL MACKINNON
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Don't be surprised if Lucas Welz becomes a fireman someday.

At about 2:30 a.m. July 8, Welz' mother Jessi went into labour. A call went out immediately to emergency services and a Station 3 fire crew was first on the scene. By the time the crew arrived Lu-

cas had already had a peek at the world — and his grandmother, Angela Fabian, who was holding his head as it crowned.

"I told (Jessi) not to have the baby at home, I told her to wait but there was no waiting," she said.

Gord Toothe, a five-year veteran with the Calgary Fire Department and former paramedic who's delivered about 25 babies, said it was a mad shuffle when he arrived.

It's old hat for Toothe now, but

it never really gets old.

"You get a real shiver," Toothe said at their fire hall reunion yesterday. "It's always a good time to be with family, watch them get excited, see a healthy baby with five fingers, five toes."

A proud mother, Jessi said her third child should be her last, but if more happen to come, there's a contingency plan in place:

"I guess I'll have to camp out in front of Foothills Hospital."

Homeless count in city jumps 18 per cent

NEIL MACKINNON
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Calgary's homeless population is continuing to swell.

The ninth biennial Count of Homeless Persons in Calgary, conducted on May 14, estimated that 4,060 people call the city's streets home on an average day, an 18 per cent spike from 2006.

Ald. Druh Farrell said while the growth in the homeless rate wasn't as high as the last survey, reporting a 32.3 per cent jump, it could be attributed to people outside of the city "getting the message that Calgary isn't affordable." "It's not a success," Farrell said. "How could you celebrate more people living on the street?"

"We're a very powerful city with lots of wealth and if we can't accomplish this goal ... I don't know who can."

Mustard Seed senior operations officer Floyd Perras said the numbers won't be encouraging until they're on the decline and the focus needs to be on initiatives from more affordable housing options to transitional support.

"Calgary is still the destination of choice for many people seeking employment and for people who aren't successful in other parts of the country to come here hoping to find success, so Calgary really has a place in this country to be the leader in making the difference," he said.

More online

Video on the homeless situation is available online at metronews.ca.

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Park lovers can enjoy free events across the city's many parks this week after yesterday's kick-off in celebration of Parks Week. Calgarians can learn about healthy yards, water management, pathways and much more until Tuesday. For more information visit www.calgary.ca/parks. **METRO CALGARY**

Parks Week

Local

Now you see it, now you don't

Enjoy an Intimate Evening of Grand Illusion with David Copperfield at the Jubilee on Oct. 16 and 17 each night for two performances. Tickets for the illusionist are \$60-\$80 at all Ticketmaster locations. **METRO CALGARY**

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Citytv



Sandy Titus.

Neighbour praised for fire effort

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

At 2:00 a.m. yesterday, southeast resident Sandy Titus didn't expect to be awakened to the sound of a crackling fire.

She recalls thinking she'd be awfully "ugly" if her teens were having a backyard fire before realizing that her neighbour's house was alight.

Running outside in her nightclothes, she banged on the windows of the home in the 300 block of Lysander Place SE and all the way down the house until she alerted the homeowners, then ran back to grab a hose after yelling to her husband to call 9-1-1.

Kelly Josephson, his wife Andrea Bilton, son Ty, and family dog, all escaped safely thanks to the racket of his neighbour, whom he had never met.

Once out, Josephson joined Titus in her garden hose efforts before the firefighters arrived, taking over two hours to douse the flames, mostly in the attic. "The fire department did an amazing job," said Josephson, and he's especially grateful to the firefighters and to Sandy for her life-saving reaction.

Damage is estimated at \$100,000. Officials believe the blaze started in a planter at the front of the home.

A father's search for justice hits billboards



Ernie Del Pinto, father of Leo Del Pinto, killed six months ago while in Thailand, unveiled donated billboard and bus ads yesterday that call for Justice For Leo.

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Kissing the photo of his son on the back of a city bus, one father is turning to Calgary Transit in his quest for justice.

Billboards generously donated by Pattison Outdoor Advertising depict Ernie Del Pinto holding a photo of his son Leo, who was shot and

killed by a Thai police officer in January while living in the country.

"We're doing this to raise awareness that justice hasn't been served and we are still waiting for answers. I am not stopping until I get it," the emotional father told reporters while standing in front of the ad reading "Justice for Leo".

While the billboard ads on city buses were unveiled yesterday, the com-

pany also donated large billboard sites around the city to get the message across to Calgarians.

"This was a Godsend to me. I am incredibly touched these people wanted to help and I can't thank them enough," Del Pinto said.

A representative for Pattison was on-hand to offer support at the unveiling.

"Today isn't about Pattison. Today is about Del Pinto. We did this because we

believe in it and a friend of Pattison's was taken away," Kyle Donnan told Metro.

While the modest company did not reveal what the advertisements cost them, they would say they are "prime spaces" and should bring a lot of awareness to the issue.

The ads are located on various buses and one large digital ad located on the corner of 19 street and McKnight Blvd. NE.

Pesticide phase-out a 'step forward'

Council has till 2009 to create bylaw

NEIL MACKINNON
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Let the phase out begin.

While the specifications of a bylaw phasing out the cosmetic use of pesticides won't be finalized until October 2009, city council approved what Ald. John Mar called a "baby step forward" yesterday, indicating they will have budgetary implications stated by November, an education and awareness program on the proper use and alternatives to cosmetic pesticides by March 2009, a developed policy consistent with a proposed bylaw by December 2009, and a promise to urge the provincial government to adopt legislation limiting pesticide use across Alberta.

"It's a good victory today," said Coalition for a Healthy Calgary's Robin McLeod, adding there's now time to get the city's aldermen better educated on the matter instead of simply "listening to industry."

It wasn't such a good day for industry consortium Crop Life Canada president Lorne Hepworth, who said he supports the move for better education and putting the push on the province to tighten its legislation.

"But there's some cause for concern," he said, noting the scope of the potential bylaw maybe be too straining, especially in the absence of guarantees for stakeholder participation.

The vote was 8-7 in favour of the phase-out.

Okotoks city council bans smoking in cars in presence of children

BYLAW Okotoks drivers have been mandated to butt out. Okotoks city council Monday became the first in the province to ban

smoking in cars with children under 16 present by a 4-2 vote, a move the by-laws author Stephen Clark hopes will push the

province to follow suit. Councillor Beth Kish, who opposed the move, said it's going to be hard to enforce, as people driving

through the community south of Calgary won't be aware of local legislation, which will fine offenders \$200. **METRO CALGARY**

On the web

• See metronews.ca for a related CityTV video.

Man jailed over child porn

A 29-year-old Calgary man was sentenced yesterday to 17 months in jail for possession and distribution of child pornography. Jason Cunningham was found with almost 200 child porn images, 50,000 photos of girls posing in underwear or bathing suits and movies on his computer. He pleaded guilty to charges in April. **METRO CALGARY**

Early success of Bill 206 shown in getting john cars off streets

Cops believe targeting demand of prostitution will decrease its supply

KRISTA SYLVESTER
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Knowing most little girls don't aspire to be prostitutes when they grow up, city cops are doing their very best to protect future victims from johns.

That's why the the Calgary police service is pleased with the early success of Bill 206, introduced in October 2006, designed to target johns.

"The community is victimized because it's happening on their streets. But these women are victims, too, and they don't choose to be out on the street, there are circumstances they are out there."

Sgt. Mark Schwartz

"It allows us to seize vehicles from the johns soliciting these services. We hope by targeting demand it will in turn decrease supply," Sgt. Mark Schwartz of the vice unit told Metro.

In 2007, the first full year, the bill allowed police to seize 50 vehicles from johns, according to the 2007 Calgary Police Report to the Community.

"The community is victimized because it's hap-

pening on their streets. But these women are victims, too, and they don't choose to be out on the street, there are circumstances they are out there."

A key factor is the men are forced to go to alternative measures, which teaches them about the consequences of their behaviour on society, if they want to get their cars back. The penalties they pay go towards social service programs aiming to help get women off the street.

Exit Outreach is a mobile van that frequents the stroll areas helping prostitutes and supervisor Al Babin said the new bill has hopefully become a "deterrent."

"I would like to think it's making johns think twice, but what it does it takes the focus off of the prostitutes and onto the perpetrators," he said.

"Some of the women have mixed feelings, some see it as a hassle, but in the long run it's beneficial."



MLS sales down 32% over last year

STATS Calgary's supposedly hot real estate market took another blow, with MLS sales dropping 32.3 per cent in the last six months compared to last year, according to stats released by the Canadian Real Estate Association. That's the lowest decline in the country, with national MLS sales dropping 13.3 per cent in the same time period. Calgary also saw the biggest decline in total dollar volume, dropping 31.6 per cent. In June, Calgary saw declines in every category — total dollar volume, sales, average sale price and new listings — compared to June 2007.

METRO CALGARY

Heavy oil protest at Telus Centre

ALICIA FOX
for Metro Calgary

Accusing the government of "greenwashing," half a dozen protesters showed up outside the Telus Convention Centre at noon yesterday.

"Our government is insulting our intelligence and lying about (what's really happening)," said Anna Gerrard, a Greenpeace volunteer, there to protest further development of the oilsands during the Heavy Oil Technologies conference.

"We need to stop adding to the problem," she said.

There had been plans to hold a skit about the so-called greenwashing, but it

"Our government is insulting our intelligence and lying about (what's really happening). We need to stop adding to the problem."

Anna Gerrard, Greenpeace volunteer

fell through when some of the main actors cancelled at the last minute.

Instead, three protesters mimicked the see, hear and speak-no-evil monkeys, saying that the government is doing likewise.

"Spare an extra \$2 billion?" read one shred of cardboard held by a man dressed as a panhandler in a suit. Gerrard explained that people should be aware that the government is taking \$2 billion



A small group of protesters targeted the Heavy Oil Technology conference at the Telus Convention Centre yesterday, protesting the ongoing development of Alberta oilsands.

from taxpayers' pockets for carbon capture and storage.

"A lot of people have their minds made up, but others we're educating," she said.

Calgary 'incivility' a problem for 1 in 6

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Welcome to Calgary — it's clean, safe and a quiet place to live.

At least that's what most of Calgarians polled think and compared to the rest of Canada, the city complains the least among Canadians about "social incivility," according to a Statistics Canada study. "Social incivility" is disruptive behaviour including noisy neighbours, public drunkenness, drugs, prostitution and homelessness.

The study says Calgarians along with Quebec City lead the country with only 16 per cent complaining. Halifax, Montreal and Vancouver led the nation with 24

"Especially during the Stampede ... we pretty much hear the drunks until 4 a.m. ..."

Samantha Robins

to 26 per cent concerned about the problems.

One downtown resident voiced her surprise at the city's poll results, saying she deals with nothing but "construction noise, drunks fighting, and people urinating on the street."

"Especially during the Stampede ... we pretty much hear the drunks until 4 a.m. and then at 6 a.m. we're woken up by construction pounding through the windows," Samantha Robins told Metro.



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More than \$230,000 was raised in support of Habitat for Humanity through Home Depot's annual nationwide Buy a House, Build a Home campaign. The money raised through the campaign is enough to build 230 bedrooms. **METRO CANADA**

Canada



Police seek Roth impostor

Ontario Provincial Police are on the lookout for David Kuntz. The Cambridge, Ont., man was pulled over for speeding on May 23 outside Brantford, Ont., and claimed to be Van Halen frontman David Lee Roth, left. Officers took Kuntz, who was suffering from a severe allergic reaction to nuts, to a hospital. Afterward, Kuntz took two nurses to a local bar where he performed, as Roth, with the house band. **METRO CANADA**

Khadr staying put, say Tories

Video doesn't affect Canada's position

Pressure is mounting for Ottawa to bring Omar Khadr back to Canada following the release of a 2003 videotape showing the then 16-year-old being interrogated in Guantanamo by CSIS agents.

"It's shameful, beyond disgraceful that he hasn't been returned," said NDP critic MP Wayne Marston (Hamilton—East-Stoney Creek), his voice at times cracking with emotion after watching the video.

Khadr's Canadian lawyers said their client is a scared

"This kid has suffered enough. This kid needs to come home."

Dennis Edney, lawyer young man who deserves to come home.

"The tapes do not show a dangerous terrorist, but instead a frightened, wounded Canadian boy pleading for help from Canadian officials," Nathan Whittington told reporters at his Edmonton law office.

"This kid has suffered enough. This kid needs to

come home. This kid is not a terrorist," said lawyer Dennis Edney.

But the Conservative government is not budging: Khadr is staying put, said Conservative MP Deepak Obhrai (Calgary East), parliamentary secretary to Foreign Affairs Minister David Emerson.

"We got assurance from the government of the U.S. that he will be treated humanely and we are waiting for the legal process to carry on. One must understand that Mr. Khadr does face serious charges," Obhrai told CBC. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Vancouver Eating Disorder Clinic



Marie Pamiano, 23, hands out booklets on anorexia outside yesterday. The Looking Glass Foundation, a Vancouver group, plans to open Canada's first residential care centre for the professional treatment of adolescents with eating disorders.

News in brief

BARENAKED BUST Steven Page, lead singer of the Barenaked Ladies has reportedly been charged with drug possession in upstate New York. Page and two women, were arrested after police found cocaine and marijuana in a Fayetteville, N.Y., apartment, according to 9WSYR.com, a local radio station's website.

EDMONTON A 19-year-old woman, known only as Buffy, sat expressionless yesterday in an Edmonton court as she was the last of five people to be tried in the brutal rape and murder of 13-year-old Nina Courtepatte. A judge ruled Buffy is guilty of second-degree murder and aggravated sexual assault.

REPORTED Canada deported Robin Long yesterday, the first of some 200 Americans who deserted the U.S. military and sought refugee status to protest against the Iraq War. Long was removed a day after a judge in Vancouver rejected his claim that he would suffer irreparable harm if returned to the U.S. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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A security threat forced Middle East envoy Tony Blair to cancel a trip to the Gaza Strip yesterday that would have marked the highest-level diplomatic visit since Hamas took control. **REUTERS**

World



\$1,000 a week on beer

An Australian man convicted of his seventh drink-driving charge was spending about A\$1,000 (\$982) a week on beer — enough to buy more than 2,500 small bottles a month, a newspaper said yesterday. The heartbroken construction worker began drowning his sorrows after breaking up with his partner five years ago, the Northern Territory News said.

40 killed in Iraq bombings

Suicide attack aimed at an army recruitment centre

Bombers killed around 40 people and wounded scores in several attacks in northern Iraq yesterday, days after the government vowed to expand a crack-down against militants in a region where al Qaeda retains influence.

In the worst attacks, two suicide bombers killed 27 people and wounded 68 when they blew themselves up outside an army

recruitment centre in Baquba, 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, an Iraqi security source said.

The U.S. military said 20 recruits were killed and 55 wounded, saying the attackers blew themselves up in a line of men outside the centre in Baquba, capital of Diyala province.

Sunni Islamist al Qaeda has sought to stoke tensions in Iraq's ethnically and religiously mixed

"What's happening here is the enemy knows the government and security forces are getting stronger."

Major Peggy Kageleiry

northern cities, such as Diyala and Mosul, after military campaigns pushed its militants out of former

strongholds in western Anbar province and Baghdad.

Recent bombings could be al Qaeda's way of showing it is still a threat, despite improving security, U.S. officials say.

"What's happening here is the enemy knows the government and security forces are getting stronger," said Major Peggy Kageleiry, a spokeswoman for the U.S. military in northern Iraq. **REUTERS**

Prisoner swap set for today

MIDDLE EAST Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah guerrilla group were set to swap prisoners today two years after the two sides fought a month-long war. Under a deal mediated by a German intelligence officer, Israel was to free five prisoners in exchange for two soldiers captured by Hezbollah guerrillas in a 2006 cross-border raid, who are widely presumed dead, government officials said.

Israel will also hand over the bodies of 200 Arabs killed while infiltrating northern Israel, and Hezbollah will return the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in south Lebanon.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had been asked by both Israel and Hezbollah to arrange the exchange, due to begin around 9:00 a.m. local time today, in a complex process that could take hours.

Hezbollah

Hezbollah, meaning "Party of God" in Arabic, shares the Shiite Islamist ideology of Iran and was set up with the help of Iranian Revolutionary Guards in 1982 to fight Israeli forces that had invaded Lebanon. Hezbollah still has strong support from Tehran. It is also backed by Damascus.

Hezbollah was expected to hand over the soldiers, and only after they were identified, Israel would begin to free prisoners and guerrillas' remains to Lebanon, Israeli media said.

"We think, we hope, especially, it is possible to do it in one day. But it's definitely going to be a long day," Jordi Raich, head of the International Committee for the Red Cross in Lebanon told Reuters. **REUTERS**

Child soldier worries rise in Sudan: UN

REBELS UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in a new report that he was very worried that a Sudanese rebel group active in the country's war-ravaged Darfur region appeared to be using child soldiers.

In a bleak report on the joint United Nations-African Union peacekeeping mission in Darfur released yesterday, Ban also said he was "deeply disappointed" by the lack of progress that has been made towards ending the 5-year-old conflict in western Sudan.

Ban said that a surprise attack on the Sudanese capital Khartoum in May by the rebel Justice and Equality Movement, had highlighted the two sides' inability to settle their differences at the negotiating table. **REUTERS**

Down Under Texting with the Pope



A World Youth Day participant checks her cellphone outside St. Mary's cathedral in Sydney yesterday. Pope Benedict texted thousands of young pilgrims in Sydney yesterday urging them to renew the faith as they gathered for the church's largest youth festival.

Iran wants peace deal, but no nuke talks

RESPONSE Iran has told big powers it will enter no more "condescending" talks meant to scrap its nuclear program but wants to negotiate a broader peace and security deal, according to an Iranian letter leaked yesterday.

The July 4 letter, published on a French weekly's website and verified by diplomatic sources, was Iran's response to an improved incentives package

from the six powers aimed at halting a uranium enrichment programme they fear could yield atom bombs.

The classified reply ignored the demand by the sextet — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — that Iran suspend enrichment to obtain the benefits but made clear this was not up for negotiation. **REUTERS**

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Dean Macey, Britain's best decathlete since Daley Thompson, retired yesterday after failing to qualify for the Beijing Olympics. REUTERS

Beijing Games

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

'I ran out of time,' Felicien explains

ATHLETICS Perdita Felicien made it official yesterday morning: She's given up hope of competing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

The Pickering, Ont., hurdler, a world champion in 2003 and silver medallist at last year's worlds, has to withdraw because the foot injury she suffered during training last February didn't leave her enough time to have a chance of being competitive in China.

"I tried as best as I could but just ran out of time," she said on a conference call yesterday. "I'm going to take the advice of my medical team and focus more on my fitness and health."

Team's effort 'unacceptable'

BASKETBALL Coming off an effort deemed "unacceptable" by the head coach, the Canadian men's basketball team's Olympic dream comes down to a "win-or-else" situation this morning. Inexplicably flat at both ends of the court, Canada lost 86-70 to Slovenia in Athens yesterday, setting up a must-win situation against Korea at the tournament.

"We felt the effort was unacceptable," coach Leo Rautins said.

Swimmer added to German squad

SWIMMING A German swimmer who just missed out on qualifying for next month's Beijing Games has won a court injunction forcing the German National Olympic Committee to include her in the squad.

Vipa Bernhardt got an injunction from a state court late on Monday and was added to the team yesterday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tomorrow's lineup

CAPTAIN CANADA Ian Millar, the 61-year-old dean of Canadian riders, has eight Olympics under his belt. He will equal the record of Austrian sailer Hubert Raudaschl with a ninth appearance at the 2008 Beijing Games. Pick up tomorrow's Metro for more.

22 days remain until the official start of the 2008 Summer Olympic Games in Beijing.

On the Wright track

Beijing-bound brothers following in family footsteps cemented in '32

TIM WIECZLAWSKI
Metro Canada

For Anthony and Philip Wright, the Olympics are a family tradition stretching all the way back to 1932.

This summer, the field hockey-playing brothers will be following in the footsteps of their mother, father and grandfather when they represent Canada on sport's biggest stage.

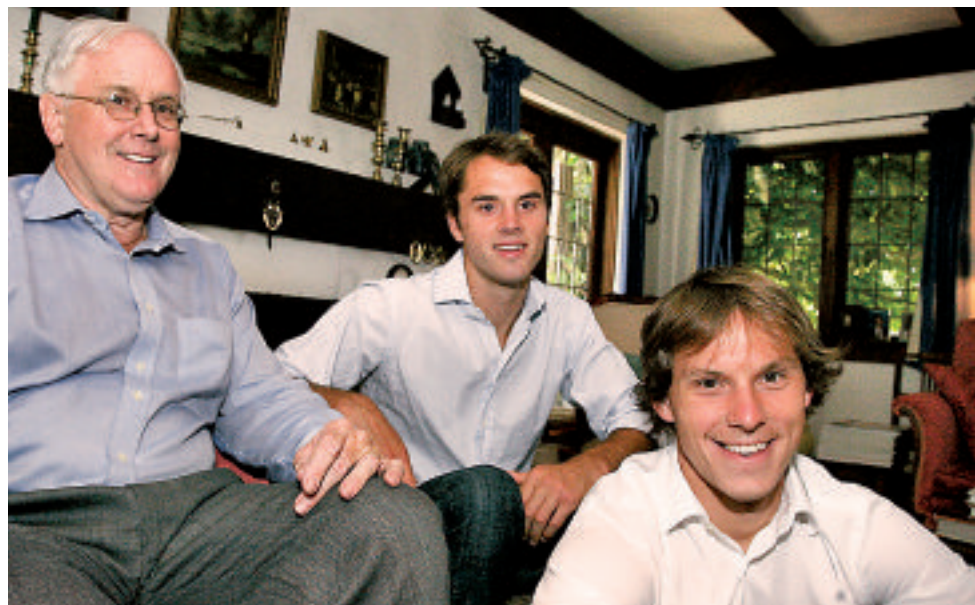
"We're all excited, but not so much nervous, not yet," Anthony, 23, told Metro, with the Games looming. "It's going to be a pretty unique and special opportunity. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

This is a first Olympics for both brothers. Anthony's coaches say he is a prototypical defencemen, with exceptional endurance and great on-field vision, who has earned 70 national team appearances.

"He can run for days and he tackles hard," said Shiaz Virjee, who coaches at the University of British Columbia. "He's one of the guys that you don't want to match up against."

Philip, 21, is an attacker with good speed. He's arguably the fastest player in the program. He was recovering from an injury leading up to the team selection and was chosen as a team reserve. He will be travelling to Beijing, but will only play if one of the other players is injured.

"He's a young kid," said



Lee Wright, from left, along with sons Andrew and Phillip, relax in their Vancouver living room. They represent two of the three generations of Wrights who have competed in the Olympics for Canada.

national team manager Ajay Dube.

"He's coming along and becoming more of a player on his own and will probably represent Canada for years. Now is just possibly not his time."

In the buildup to the Games, their mother, Thelma, has been offering them both inspirational advice — urging them to drink in the experience and make the most of the occasion, even though being third-generation Olympians has meant they are singled out for added attention.

"The pressure is hard for

"It's going to be a pretty unique and special opportunity. We have everything to gain and nothing to lose."

Anthony Wright

them because they just want to be team players," she said.

Thelma knows the pressure of competing at the highest level. She ran for Canada in the 1,500 metres at the 1972 Munich Olympics and at the 1976

Games in Montreal.

The boys' father, Lee, also competed at the Montreal Olympics. It was his second Games as a member of the Canadian field hockey team. His previous time was in 1964 in Tokyo.

"We were competing in Montreal, when my father was the president of the Canadian Olympic Association, so that made it a special event for us. It was a family event," said Lee.

His father, Harold Wright, was a sprinter for Canada in the 1932 Olympics.

But while their pedigree

is impeccable, in five previous Olympic Games no member of the Wright family has been able to return home with a medal.

Though the men's field hockey team's highest placing ever was 10th at the 2000 Olympics, Anthony remains optimistic Team Canada could yet pull off an upset.

"Tournaments are a funny thing, and if you get on a roll, anything is possible," he said.

"We're not favoured to win any medals, but I wouldn't put it out of the question."

Canoe champ Kolonics dies

Hungary's two-time Olympic canoe champion Gyorgy Kolonics died yesterday, most likely due to heart failure, during a practise session for the Beijing Games, the Hungarian Kayak-Canoe Federation said.

Kolonics, 36, who won Olympic gold medals in 1996 and 2000 and bronze medals in 1996 and 2004, fell unconscious and could not be resuscitated, Etele Barath, the federation's

"Everybody who was there is in shock."

Gabor Ganczer

president told state news agency MTI.

"There's not a whole lot anybody can say for now, everybody who was there is in shock and can't really tell us what happened," Gabor Ganczer, a spokesman for the federation, said.

Kolonics was set to compete in Beijing, his fifth Olympics, in the 500 metres and 1,000 metres double events with Gyorgy Kozmann.

In an international career spanning more than 16 years, Kolonics won 15 world championship titles.

He rose to national prominence in Hungary after taking the 500-metre doubles title in Atlanta with teammate Csaba Horvath.

REUTERS



Gyorgy Kozmann, left and Gyorgy Kolonics of Hungary receive their bronze medals at the Athens 2004 Summer Olympics.

DAVE ARNOTT/METRO CANADA

MARK DODSWELL/GETTY IMAGES THE PHOTO

NHL

The Spectrum, home of the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers and NBA's Philadelphia 76ers for nearly 30 seasons, is set to close its doors next spring and will be demolished. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

9

Sports

SPORTS EDITOR: JONATHAN P. KUEHLEIN, SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA



Drake calls it a career

Veteran forward Dallas Drake, left, has decided to go out a winner and will retire after winning the Stanley Cup with Detroit in his 15th NHL season. In 1,009 career regular-season games with the Red Wings, the Winnipeg/Phoenix franchise and the St. Louis Blues, Drake registered 177 goals with 300 assists for 477 points.

Running over opposition

Lumsden earns high praise from Stampeders' Armour

DAN TOTH
for Metro Calgary

Calgary Stampeders
linebacker JoJuan Armour
refuses to be baited by
questions about Hamilton
Tiger-Cats quarterback
Casey Printers, his
teammate last season
with the Hamilton Tiger-
Cats.

No explanation, just an instance he'll not utter "even one word about Casey" prior to the Ticats' visit to McMahon Stadium tomorrow night at 7 p.m.

Mention Jesse Lumsden, on the other hand, and it triggers a rapid-fire dialogue from the Stampeders' burly back who has earned the respect of teammates and opponents for his hard-nosed running style and resistance to tackling.

"Jesse is an outstanding back, I've played with Jesse and against him and he's always been one of the top

one or two backs in this league," said Armour, a teammate of Lumsden's the last two seasons in Hamilton.

"He can cause you problems running the ball and on screens, he's a guy you've got to gang-tackle and know how to hit him."

"The guys in this league know that you have to bring your lunch pail and your hard hat when you face him, there's nothing you have to tell them."

Lumsden leads the Canadian Foot-

Jesse
Lumsden



ball League with 362 yards rushing and a sensational 7.5-yard average, well ahead of Calgary's own Joffrey Reynolds, the No. 2 back with 277 yards through three games. Armour is quick to praise Lumsden's powerful style having seen him up-close in practice and as an opponent from across the line of scrimmage.

"Whenever Jesse has the ball in his hands he's dangerous," Armour said. "He's one of the best downhill runners (breaking to the sidelines) I've seen in a long time. When I played with him I could see he'd

always make the first person miss. The first person is always going to have trouble with him, so that's something I always complimented him on when we played together."

"It's not elusive speed, he's just fast. For a big man, he moves."

Lumsden, a former Canadian College sensation with McMaster who wasn't drafted into the NFL but had a free agent shot with both the Seattle Seahawks and Washington Redskins. His failure to stick, Armour suggests, has much more to do with the politics of NFL football and less about Lumsden's skills.

"It surprises me but there's a lot of favouritism down there," said Armour, who was drafted by the Oakland Raiders in 1999.

"I was lucky to get four years in (in the NFL) and fortunate to have coaches down there who liked me."

Garcia feels fine ahead of Open

Sergio Garcia, the title favourite in the absence of injured world No. 1 Tiger Woods, said yesterday he had never felt better prepared for a British Open.

"I feel like my game is probably as good as it's ever been," the world No. 7 told reporters. "I obviously feel good with my game and feel good with myself. I feel like I'm getting better as a player every tournament. I'm learning more things about myself."

Garcia, beaten by Ireland's Padraig Harrington in a playoff at the 2007 British Open, has never won any of the top four prizes in golf but he said his Players Championship victory in Florida in May felt comparable to a major win.

"The strength of the field, the difficulty of the course, the conditions, it really felt like a major," said the 28-year-old Spaniard.

"The winning score was

like a major and for us (players) it feels like the fifth major. We all know it's not but it's one of the biggest tournaments we play all year."

Garcia said it would make no difference in tomorrow's opening round at



Garcia

Royal Birkdale that the bookmakers listed him as the favourite.

"It doesn't matter what anybody else says," he said. "At the end of the day, I know I've got to be favourite myself, in me."

"I have to go out there and do what I know how to do, believe in my ability to do it and then give myself a chance at winning."

"It's nice to be favourite but it doesn't mean it's going to help me, like my chances are going to be better because of that. I still have to go out there and perform."

REUTERS

YorkReport

Marty
York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Tiger-Cats offence hitting its stride

The Hamilton Tiger-Cats have more than doubled their scoring total from the corresponding period last season.

They have racked up 70 points in 2008 compared to a mere 34 to start the season last year. Marty York takes a look at why, online at www.metronews.ca

Sports in brief

CFL Eskimos kick returner Tristan Jackson was named the CFL's special teams player of the week yesterday for his performance in Edmonton's victory over Toronto last week. B.C. Lions quarterback Jarious Jackson was named top offensive player and Lions linebacker Javier Glatt earned top defensive honours.

CFL The Saskatchewan Roughriders extended the contract of general manager Eric Tillman through the 2010 season yesterday.

NFL The Chicago Bears have signed running back Kevin Jones to a one-year contract. Jones spent the past four years with Detroit. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

SCOREBOARD

MLB	CFL	TOMORROW'S GAME
<p>LAST NIGHT'S GAME</p> <p>All-Star Game (at New York)</p> <p>National League vs. American League</p> <p>TONIGHT</p> <p>No games scheduled</p> <p>TOMORROW'S GAMES</p> <p>Detroit at Baltimore, 5:05</p> <p>NATIONAL LEAGUE</p> <p>N.Y. Mets at Cincinnati, 5:10</p> <p>San Diego at St. Louis, 6:15</p> <p>Pittsburgh at Colorado, 7:05</p>	<p>WEST DIVISION</p> <p>Saskatchewan 3 0 0 6</p> <p>Edmonton 2 1 0 4</p> <p>CALGARY 2 1 0 4</p> <p>B.C. 1 2 0 2</p> <p>EAST DIVISION</p> <p>Montreal 2 1 0 4</p> <p>Hamilton 1 2 0 2</p> <p>Toronto 1 2 0 2</p> <p>Winnipeg 0 3 0 0</p> <p>WEEK 4</p>	<p>HAMILTON at CALGARY, 7</p> <p>FRIDAY'S GAME</p> <p>Winnipeg at B.C., 8</p> <p>SATURDAY'S GAME</p> <p>Montreal at Saskatchewan, 5</p> <p>SUNDAY'S GAME</p> <p>Edmonton at Toronto, 2</p> <p>BASEBALL</p> <p>GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE</p> <p>GAMES FEATURING THE CALGARY VIPERS:</p> <p>FRIDAY'S GAME</p> <p>Chico at CALGARY, 7:05</p>



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Office space With new industrial real estate projects completed, the commercial vacancy rate nudged up to 2.32 per cent from 2.19 per cent, according to a Colliers International report for the second quarter. An additional two million square feet of space is expected to open up within the next nine months. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Real Estate



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Watering properly

LAWN CARE In the summer, the residential landscape is characterized by rows of neat lawns. Even if you're not an avid gardener, you probably perform basic lawn maintenance. Municipal water use doubles in the summer months and much of the demand is attributed to lawn and garden watering.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) online guide to landscaping offers practical advice on how to water your lawn efficiently to avoid evaporation and runoff. Taking an economical approach to watering doesn't mean you have to compromise the health of your lawn. Visit cmhc.ca for more water saving tips for your lawn and garden.

Full bloom

Indoor gardens can be welcome additions to Alberta condos

SONYA PROCENKO
for Source Media Group

ARE YOU PONDERING greening up your condo with an indoor garden? Wander through the humid, jungle-like Devonian Gardens and you may be inspired to believe any plant will thrive indoors in Alberta.

You would be mistaken, say experts.

Jeff de Jong, a popular indoor gardening speaker and horticulture teacher at Old College, tries to help people understand that not anything goes indoors. "The climate is dry and our homes are dry," he explains.

Generally, he advises condo owners seek out plants that are tolerant of drought-like conditions and low light levels.

"Not every place is ideal for plants," he says.

"Buying plants takes a little bit of trial and error. If you find a plant that likes the conditions then there's no reason it can't be around for several years."



Choosing well

What are the latest Alberta trends in indoor gardening? One trend, de Jong suggests, is choosing foliage that is bright, green, healthy, unusual and visually interesting.

Another current trend is matching your plants to your condo's interior style. For example, with a California look, cactus type plants might work well. While Boston ferns might be better suited to a very traditional, comfy, cosy home.

"(Choose) whatever plant accentuates the design of your house," advises de Jong.

"Before people would bring home what the garden centre had. Now there are so many different choices (in plants) it can be overwhelming."

Keep in mind, he says, that poisonous and cactus type plants aren't friendly to children and pets.

Remember too, that not all plants are evergreen. So if you don't like picking up leaves, don't buy a ficus, a deciduous plant that sheds its leaves.

With people's busy lives, house plants that require low care seem increasingly popular.

And de Jong recommends, for example, the cast iron plant, a small plant that works well in low light.

Culinary gardens

"More people are growing culinary gardens," says de Jong. "So many Mediter-

anean herbs are perfectly suited to the dry conditions we have here." The herbs should sit on a window or counter and get four to five hours of light.

The exotic orchid

"If you don't have a lot of room for plants and you're trying to simplify, orchids are beautiful," he says. Orchids flower three to four months and can tolerate low light and drier conditions.

For orchids, de Jong highly recommends Paramount Orchids, which boasts approximately 50,000 orchids in four greenhouses. The company is usually open to the public weekends or by appointment so call first to check their hours.

New braiding types

Janette Eby, annuals and tropicals buyer at Golden Acre Garden Centre, has acquired expert knowledge of what plants will and won't work indoors in Calgary.

"Condo owners are still using plants (indoors) to soften the edges and create a nice atmosphere."

For condo owners, she advises they invest in "plants that aren't going to outgrow small areas quickly."

Eby admits some of the centre's bestsellers for condos are the hardiest plants that don't need a lot of care and maintenance.

Among the tougher plants she recommends are snake plants, yuccas and yucca canes. "The braided type of plants are aesthetically pleasing. They add a bit of a nice look."

"A new popular plant is the pachira, a feng shui type of plant. The Hawaiian schefflera is a leafy tree with a braided trunk." Another newer tougher plant, she says, is the zamifolia, a hardy, thick leafed, succulent.

At Hole's Greenhouses and Gardens, Bob Stadnyk, buyer merchandiser of perennials and indoor plants, assists many Edmonton condo owners in their plant shopping.

"If your condo is south facing and there's a lot of light, you can grow almost anything," says Stadnyk.

"Cactus, succulents, blooming hibiscus, orchids ... if a person really wants a harbinger of spring, there are potted bulbs like daffodils and crocuses."

Edmonton homeowners are extending their indoor gardens outdoors, he says, with similar looking plants outside.

"They're buying hanging plants, like spider plants and ivy, for air purification in their homes and condos."

"People are keeping their indoor gardens simple, not cluttering them up, simple and elegant."

Edited for length by Metro Calgary

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EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA



I dream of Batmobile

Metro's Rick McGinnis gets his supervroom on with Dark Knight's ride

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

The first time designer Ian MacIntosh saw the Batmobile on TV in 1966, he remembers almost losing control.

"The show was great, but the car was just the pièce de résistance. It was the wickedest car ever," MacIntosh says at the door of his Mississauga, Ont., car customizing space where he is building his own version of every man's dream car.

The show was Batman, the high-camp pop-art comedy show that starred Adam West and ran for two years in the late '60s and forever in syndication. MacIntosh's version of the Batmobile, sitting in front of us on the floor of his shop, is the product of over two years of labour and still a few months from completion.

If you're only used to the cherished Corgi die-cast model you owned as a kid, the first thing that strikes you is how



Rick McGinnis sits in the Batmobile being built by Ian MacIntosh in his Mississauga shop.

massive it is — a long, low, lethal black sled of a car. Ian's Batmobile is built on a 2002 Corvette C5 chassis that's been lengthened by two feet, and is almost twenty feet long.

The rest of the building is taken up with Ian's main business — designing, printing and installing those huge vinyl billboards that wrap themselves

"My wife thinks I'm out of my head wanting a full-sized Batmobile."

Ian MacIntosh

around buses and cover stretches of walls and hallways in subways and malls. Just recently, his company was commissioned to create the murals for Dark Knight, the new Batman film which hits theatres Friday, currently coating the walls at Toronto's Union Station. "I was all excited, because when you've been a Batman fan all your life, and you finally get a chance to work with your superhero, you jump at it."

There are other Batmo-



The Tumbler is a hulking thing, more military than drag strip, and it takes its inspiration from tanks and fighter jets, not the sleek fantasies of chrome and glass and aerodynamic steel that every male responds to with a low groan, and for which the 1966 Batmobile is a wild, wicked, supreme expression.

Car enthusiast Ian MacIntosh has been constructing a replica of the '60s Batmobile for two years in his Mississauga shop.

biles, of course. Just after talking to Ian I head down to Toronto's Eaton Centre to check out the Tumbler — the Batmobile featured in Christopher Nolan's movie reboots of the caped crusader — and the Batpod, the monster motorcycle hidden in the Tumbler's bowels.

Ian's ambition is to get his car finished in time to enter it into the Targa Newfoundland, a 2,200 km car race where car nuts can show off their rides.

"My wife thinks I'm out of my head wanting a full-sized Batmobile," Ian tells me. "How do you rationalize it? I don't know. I'm guaranteed that she doesn't like the car, but I will get her wearing a cat suit in that passenger seat if it's the last thing I ever do."

Bat and beyond

There have been countless Batmobiles in decades of DC comics, but here are a few key versions of the car, and some of their equally wicked competitors.

- **1941:** The Batmobile is introduced in Detective Comics #27, but wasn't given its name until issue #48, though it was merely a red convertible with design elements of a Ford and a Lincoln.

- **1966:** Batman and The Green Hornet debut on television the same year, introducing two awesome new cars — Green Hornet's Black Beauty (a 1966 Chrysler Crown Imperial sedan customized by Barris colleague Dean Jeffries) and the Batmobile.

- **1979:** The Dukes Of Hazzard debuts on CBS, and introduces General Lee, a modified 1969 Dodge Charger.

- **1982:** Knight Industries Three Thousand, or KITT, debuts with the premiere of Knight Rider on NBC. A Pontiac Firebird Trans Am with a cybernetic brain, it would later be upgraded to a Pontiac Banshee prototype for Knight Rider 2000.

- **1989:** Tim Burton revives the Batman franchise, and introduces a new Batmobile — featuring two Chevy Impala chassis and a V8 engine.

- **2005:** Christopher Nolan revinds Batman to the start with Batman Begins, and introduces The Tumbler, a massive, brutal machine with a military inspiration and details from the F-117 Stealth fighter.

RICK MCGINNIS/METRO CANADA

Rick McGinnis with The Tumbler, the Batmobile from Christopher Nolan's Batman films.

VICTORIA GORMLEY/FOR METRO CANADA

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TECH SERIES



Firefighters work on the crumpled remains of a Yukon SUV on Highway 401 near Milton, Ont. last week. One person died in the crash which police says was fuelled by road rage.

When fury takes the driver's seat

Anyone can succumb to road rage: Experts

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada



Who does your typical road rager look like? You.

The phenomenon of fury behind the wheel has come to the fore once again after 55-year-old Antonio Greco was killed in what police are calling a deadly act of road rage last week on an Ontario highway.

Wayne Winsor, 39, faces charges of leaving the scene of an accident, criminal negligence and dangerous driving.

But neither Greco nor Winsor fit the description of what experts have called likely road rage perpetrators: Young males under 30. Experts say that while a case this extreme is rare, it's proof that anyone, particularly successful people, can blow their top and put themselves and others in harm's way.

It's more common that one might think: Angelo DiCicco, a 21-year driving instructor and general manager at Young Drivers of Canada, says out of the more than 500 professional drivers his school retrainees per year, 95 per cent say they have been the subject of or subjected to road rage.

Control issue

"The most common acts of road rage don't come from the Charlie Manson types who carry the bloody axe in the seat next to them, they come from people with above-average incomes and education," adds Sgt. Cam Woolley of the On-

The most common acts of road rage don't come from the Charlie Manson types ... they come from people with above-average incomes and education."

Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Cam Woolley

tario Provincial Police.

"I think it's a control issue. These people are used to being in charge of their lives, so when they get cut off or someone tailgates them, they react the wrong way."

Incidents such as the one last week usually start with a mistake, says Woolley, followed by visual communication — a glare or offensive gestures, for instance. The situation can then esca-

late into aggression, then possibly violence if tempers flare high enough.

So what is it about the road that brings out the worst in people? Dr. David Wiesensthal, a York University psychology professor and co-author of book *Contemporary Issues in Road User Behavior And Traffic Safety*, says the anonymity the car provides spurs people to act in ways they normally never would.

"Roads are a place where you see vengeance on a daily basis," he said. "Speed and anonymity are factors: You have the car, which is both the weapon and the means of escape. You'll probably never see that stranger again, so the social constraints are gone. You're freer to deviate from social behaviour."

Anonymity

Nevertheless, the protection from recognition the car affords drivers is no excuse to act aggressively, says Edyta Zdanczewicz, media spokesperson for the Canadian Automobile Association.

"Road rage is essentially a selfish act, and it's always serious," she said. "It's not something you can legislate out. The drivers have to take control of themselves. The onus is on all of us to use our common sense."

Managing anger

Tips to beat road rage from those in the know

- Had a bad day? "Don't bring it into the car with you," says Zdanczewicz. "Take 15 minutes to cool down before you step into the vehicle."
- "If someone makes you mad, don't engage them," Woolley advises. "You don't know what their mental state might be. Call police if you see someone driving recklessly."
- "Don't jockey for a better position on the road," says DiCicco. "Let them go, you'll meet up with them in the next intersection where the traffic gets backed up."
- "Listen to soothing music, particularly music you like, and take deep breaths," says Wiesensthal.



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From Sept. 26-28, art lovers will be able to see the work behind London's performances and exhibitions during Open Rehearsal. The annual event will pull back the curtains on a variety of cultural institutions such as the Barbican, National Theatre, the Old Vic and English National Ballet. **VISIT LONDON**

Open Rehearsal

Travel



Hawaiian Oktoberfest

Oahu's Ala Moana Hotel will host its 38th annual Oktoberfest celebration from Oct. 7 to 12 this year. The event attracts over 8,000 guests who eat sauerkraut and pig knuckles, and dance to the polka stylings of the Edelweiss Band.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Continental class in a lakeside setting

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada



It's lunchtime when I arrive for a two-day visit at the Inn at Manitou. The elegant and gracious resort graces the rocky shores of Lake Manitou-wabing, about 150 miles north of Toronto, but the luncheon scene that greets me is strictly South of France.

Wrought iron tables draped in bright Provencal prints are set out on a patio in the shade of a massive basswood. A sommelier — direct from Burgundy — is recommending wines to pair with dishes that reflect a sophisticated international fare. Service staff is mostly French but you can also pick up an Italian or Asian accent.

The resort — yes it is simultaneously resort and inn — embodies what Relais & Chateau calls the philosophy of "art d'être" — where guests enter "a unique universe of well-being."

Certainly the physical beauty of its lakeside location, the elegant French-Asian décor, the outdoor fitness activities, the spa, the food and the level of service all help create this pervading sense of well-being.

But two things that really define the resort are its



A guest of the Inn at Manitou has a massage treatment with Lake Manitou-wabing as a backdrop.

On the web

- For more information on The Inn at Manitou, visit www.manitou-online.com.
- For more information on spa and wellness travel, visit www.traveltowellness.com.

warm, welcoming personality and the personable, professional international staff. Combined, the two create an art-of-hospitality that practically bounces off rich, sunflower-coloured walls that are the backdrop for fine furnishings,

antiques and works-of-art lovingly collected from around the world. Walk in and, instantly, this is a place that makes you feel good.

Between meals guests spend time on the tennis courts, lounge by the outdoor swimming pool, walk the wooded trails, cycle in to town, canoe or kayak the pristine lake or enjoy a round on the 18-hole Ridge at Manitou, a luxury, private club.

Each morning begins with a guided walk fol-

lowed by yoga on the dock, then off to the various activities. For me — it's an Oxygen Facial. Lovingly appointed in keeping with the rest of the inn, the spa offers 11 treatment rooms — a generous size for a property with just 34 guest rooms.

At the hands of Kittiya, a therapist trained at the renowned Chiva Som in Thailand, the facial is everything a good spa treatment should be — nurturing, pampering, relaxing and results orient-



Morning yoga class on the dock.

The Inn at Manitou

- Inn at Manitou rates start at \$295 per person, per night and include breakfast, lunch, dinner and afternoon tea daily, as well as many activities.
- Open May to October.
- The inn is about a two-hour

drive north of Toronto's Pearson International Airport. It's possible to arrange transportation by limousine or chartered float plane to the inn's docks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ed.

It includes pure oxygen being sprayed from a tank onto the face, which is then sealed in with a serum. It's said to be detoxifying, stimulating and, because the oxygen enters the blood stream, an energy boost for the entire body. I can certainly vouch for the energy boost which serves me well on the golf course. Afterwards, there's afternoon tea served in the very elegant Asian-inspired Tea Room.

When I arrive for dinner about 7:30 p.m., I'm surprised to find both Sheila Wise (who launched the business with her late husband, Ben Wise, 35 years ago) and Jordanna Wise Lipson, who co-manages the resort with her mother, both in the reception area greeting guests as they might in their own

home. At least one of them is usually here breakfast, lunch and dinner and often, they are also the ones picking up the phones to take room reservations. The personal touch they bring to the inn and their attention to detail is impressive and sometimes surprising.

For instance, they keep a stock of pashminas in various colours on-hand should a guest feel a little chilly when dining on the terrace.

Whether inside or out, service is impeccable and dinner time is an elegant affair with fine china, starched table linens, serving staff in white jackets and a prevailing attitude that lends energy to the place.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and founder/editor of www.traveltowellness.com

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Rollin' on the subterranean river

The **Travel Junkie**

Julia Dimon

www.thetraveljunkie.ca

Imagine translucent vampire-types crawling out from the darkness, poking their flesh-eating heads out from behind giant stalagmites. I picture alien creatures emerging from rock recesses, eager to suck back my brain like a Jello shooter.

As I make my way through the cave system of the world's longest underground navigable river, a couple of things become clear: No. 1, this Filipino tourist attraction is the perfect natural setting for a horror flick and No. 2, I've been watching too much TV.

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park features an 8.2 kilometre river that runs through the St. Paul Moun-



Looking out from the cave mouth in Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park.

On the web

For more information visit puerto-undergroundriver.com.

tain range. It's located on the west coast of Palawan Island, the Philippines' largest province, and tourists can visit a portion of the river by boat.

After a bumpy 2-1/2 hour road trip from Puerto Princesa's airport, followed by a quick boat trip,

I arrive at this protected national park.

I slip on my life-jacket, hop into a small wooden boat, and putter toward the mouth of the cave.

As we approach, the smell is overpowering. It's an acrid combination of ammonia and fish sauce. "Bat sh-t," says the boatman. He reminds me not to open my mouth while I'm looking up at the cave's bat-infested ceiling. Guano isn't a pleasant

smell but it doesn't take long before the stench subsides.

There are thousands of bats (nine different species) living in this cave. Using their sonar skills, they flutter about, looking for mosquitoes to eat before dangling upside down on their perches. Between the flying rodents, the bat droppings and the drizzling rain water, I'm happy to be wearing a protective (albeit goofy-looking) helmet.

The cave is incredible. Flooding into the South China Sea, the river has carved out a spectacular landscape of limestone chambers (the highest reaching a ceiling of 65 metres) and impressive rock formations.

Pointing my car-battery-operated flashlight at the rock face, I notice that one outcrop looks like the back of a naked woman, another like a giant jellyfish and a melting wax candle.

Christian pilgrims may be most impressed by a geological carving of Jesus' face.

At first I had a hard time seeing the apparition, but when I did, the likeness was undeniable. Millions of years of water erosion has formed a limestone Jesus. "They say that when

the cold water drips it's holy water. Hot water is holy sh-t," the guide joked. Cave humour.

Next, we paddled through a section known as the "highway." Passing through the wide colonnade, I felt like Jonah entering the mouth of a giant whale. Stalactites looked like tonsils and mammoth molars.

This underground river is vying to be named one of the New 7 Wonders of Nature, and it has my vote. The landscape is magical, engaging the senses and the imagination. It's a must-see, no question — but do keep an eye out for blood-sucking monsters.

Julia Dimon co-hosts Word Travels, airing on OLN, and edits The Travel Junkie. She can be reached through www.thetraveljunkie.ca.

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Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

X-Files on EBay

X-Files star Gillian Anderson is selling off memorabilia from the cult sci-fi show to raise cash for charities. More than 500 rare and signed items will be auctioned at EBay.com. **IMDB.COM**

Getting hitched at the movies

Mamma Mia! is just the latest summer film to employ matrimonial theme

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

Attention, alpha males! I've got good news and bad news. First, the bad news: There's an unlikely new trend beginning to surface in Hollywood and it has nothing to do with comic books, videogames or the cinematic comeback of Jean Claude Van Damme (sorry, dudes!).

Instead, with Friday's release of Mamma Mia!, the institution of marriage has reaffirmed its popularity once again in cinema. Could it be possible? Has Hollywood gone soft even as most of Tinseltown's divorce lawyers are busy drawing up annulment papers? Well, apparently so.

Not only does the musical Mamma Mia! tell the story of a young girl (Amanda Seyfried) trying to reunite her single mother (Meryl Streep) with her biological father,

but it's all centred around the daughter's romantic Greek wedding.

It's only one of many films rocking a matrimonial theme this summer: Sex And The City has earned over \$140 million with a marriage-dominated plot; Ashton Kutcher and Cameron Diaz got hitched in What Happens In Vegas; even tough guy Indiana Jones walked down the aisle in his latest adventure. In an age where the number of marriages in real life are declining, why are we suddenly seeing a more romanticized notion of matrimony in the movies?

According to a recent article in USA Today, perhaps one of the reasons is because women are now enjoying movies in a revived kind of way. Romantic comedies may have rebounded not as a date movie, but as a way to bond with your female friends.

As the boffo box office



Mamma Mia!, one of many films with a matrimonial theme this summer, opens in theatres Friday.

of Sex And The City proved, women could sell out theatres all on their own; the film is a success-

ful rom-com that doesn't require a date. As film producer Galt Niederhoffer states in the article, "(this

movie is) being bought by women and driven by them and is making money for the studios. It's a

Romantic comedies may have rebounded not as a date movie, but as a way to bond with your female friends.

big message to the movie-making community."

The community seems to be paying attention too. Woody Allen's Vicky Cristina Barcelona, The Accidental Husband, Rachel Getting Married and Bride Wars are just a few of the matrimonial-themed movies coming soon to a theatre near you.

Which finally brings me to that good news, guys: Movies about marriage may be the newest trend but at least you aren't needed to sit through them for your girlfriend's sake anymore. Then again, aren't you going to kind of miss feeling needed by your girlfriend, guys?

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No excuses for Fleet Foxes

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

There are plenty of rules when it comes to making music, but Seattle's Fleet Foxes only live by one: "The show must go on."

The foursome took that to heart recently, when their singer Robin Pecknold came down with a nasty illness that made it difficult for him to sing. Taking a few days off to recover wasn't an option.

"There's no reason to miss a show," says keyboardist Casey Westcott, who took over interview duties for his vocally impaired singer. "Maybe if you lost a limb, but there are no excuses when it comes to music."

Fleet Foxes determination to keep pushing ahead isn't surprising, given how textured and complex their debut self-titled album is — picture a cross between Simon and Garfunkel, The Beach Boys and Crosby, Stills and



Fleet Foxes' debut self-titled album is ripe with brilliant four-part harmonies, minimalist instrumentation and contagious hooks.

Nash and you might get the idea. It's ripe with brilliant four-part harmonies, minimalist instrumentation and contagious hooks. The disc is so remarkable, that it's tough to have a discussion about new bands without Fleet Foxes coming up in conversation. "People are having allergic reactions to the music," says Westcott.

"It's a little weird."

While the band is happy for the high praise Westcott admits that he was concerned the record would never get made.

"We've been playing together since 2006 and we've been working on it straight through," he says. "We ran out of money for the nth time, so we recorded it ourselves."

Dark Knight

Ledger family attends premiere

MOVIES Heath Ledger's family attended Monday's The Dark Knight premiere in New York, where the late actor's father left the theatre giving a thumbs-up sign. *People.com* reports.

Kim Ledger and his wife Ines — Heath's stepmother — bypassed the red carpet and ducked into the theatre to watch his late son play The Joker. Also attending the premiere were Heath's mother Sally Bell and her husband, and Heath's older sister, Kate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

In brief

GAMING A new Guns N' Roses song, Shackler's Revenge, apparently from the decade-in-the-works album Chinese Democracy, will be included in Rock Band 2, according to the New York Times. The game will be released in September. The news makes it seem increasingly likely that Chinese Democracy will finally see the light of day before year's end. **REUTERS**

CHRISTI

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Television

Kristen Bell will return to *Heroes* this fall with a multipisode arc as her Season 2 character Elle Bishop, an agent of the Company, whose power is the ability to generate and manipulate electricity.

EW.COM



Cyrus considers cleaner Sex And The City



Victor Willis, original lead singer of the Village People

Village People singer is out of hospital

MUSIC Victor Willis, the original lead singer of disco-era band the Village People, was released from a San Diego hospital after vocal cord surgery and said he could resume singing within months.

"I feel great and look forward to performing before the end of the year, but I can't say for sure," Willis said in a statement.

His doctors have told him he cannot sing for 90 days, but he has resumed talking, and his speaking voice "sounds almost normal," his spokeswoman Linda Smith, said.

The Village People helped define disco music in the late 1970s. Willis sang hits such as *Y.M.C.A.* and *Macho Man*, but he left the group in 1980. He returned only for a short time between 1982 and 1984, and since then has pursued a solo career.

REUTERS

In brief

MOVIES Hancock led the foreign box office for a second weekend, earning a huge \$70.4 million U.S. from 67 markets. Will Smith's superhero comedy opened at No. 1 in 12 markets, including Russia (\$11.4 million), France (\$9.9 million), and Mexico (\$4.6 million). Meanwhile, *Kung Fu Panda* reached an international total of \$218.4 million as it pulled in \$42.2 million from 44 territories.

REUTERS

CASTING Christina Ricci has signed on for three episodes of TNT's *Holly Hunter* crime drama *Saving Grace*, which begins its second season on Monday. Hunter stars as Grace Hanadarak, an intense Oklahoma City police detective whose wild personal life translates into a no-holds-barred approach to her detective work.

Ricci will play a young detective who temporarily partners with Grace, whose current partner, Ham Dewey (Kenneth Johnson), is going on a leave of absence. The actress most recently appeared in the film

IntelVision

Rick McGinnis

rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

SQUEAKY CLEAN: In an interview with TV Guide, last week's teen queen Miley Cyrus said that one of her ambitions is to make a "younger, cleaner version of *Sex And The City*."

I have this horrible feeling that Cyrus is a bit unclear about just what made the HBO series a hit, and that it wouldn't be replicated by replacing Frank talks over *Cosmos* about the female perspective on male performance anxiety with a gang of perky gal pals sitting around a Starbucks complaining over their soy chai lattes about boys who've gotten addicted to the lap dance scenes in the new *Grand Theft Auto*.

Or maybe it would?

PUNCH LINE: In the wake of the curious fracas about a recent New Yorker cover picturing Barack Obama

and his wife in the White House dressed up as Osama Bin Laden and Angela Davis, the New York Times printed an apparently serious analysis piece on how TV comedians are having a hard time coming up with campaign trail gags about the Democratic presidential candidate.

"Why?" the Times earnestly asked. "The reason cited by most of those involved in the shows is that a fundamental factor is so far missing in Mr. Obama: There is no comedic 'take' on him, nothing easy to turn to for an easy laugh, like allegations of Bill Clinton's womanizing, or President Bush's goofy bumbling or Al Gore's robotic persona."

Really? So after a campaign full of gaffes like his recent call for Americans to teach their kids a sec-



Miley Cyrus said one of her ambitions is to make a "younger, cleaner version of *Sex And The City*."

ond language — delivered in what can only be called a sophomore's very poor impersonation of Richard Pryor crossed with Steven Wright, after which it tran-

spired that Obama, who was raised in Hawaii and Indonesia before attending colleges with world-renowned languages programs, speaks only English

himself — there's absolutely nothing that a comic can mine from the presidential hopeful?

Come on, people — they once made a laughingstock of Edmund Muskie and Walter Mondale for less.

While most of the late-night shows have been sympathetic to Obama, their rare attempts at poking fun at him have been, admittedly, met with audience resistance, as Jon Stewart recalled after a relatively mild gag about his campaign finance platform floundered in near-silence. "People have a tendency to react as far as their ideology allows them," Stewart told the Times.

Paraphrasing the old adage that truth is the first casualty of war, it seems that comedy is among the foremost in the partisan ideological battle that's typified the new millennium so far, and it is, as far as I'm concerned, a dismal state of affairs that both sides should be able to deplore equally.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

on tv

Tune into CBC Radio One's Q program today at 8 p.m. to hear Metro columnist Rick McGinnis debating TV comedy.

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critics' corner

Dirty Jobs

"Ooh! See the pretty monkey!" Or not. This episode chronicles one of the more dangerous jobs host Mike Rowe has experienced — and it took its toll on the crew as well. They travel to South Africa to a rehabilitation center and shelter for monkeys. Unfortunately for Mike and his band of merry cameramen, there's one monkey that takes a shine to their ankles — and anyplace else it can tear a chunk from. 6 PM on DISC



Family Guy

Radio shock jocks and children of divorce are the targets in the hilarious "Mother Tucker." Peter is devastated when his mom (voice of Phyllis Diller) announces she's leaving his dad for anchorman Tom Tucker. But it isn't long before he embraces Tom as his new dad — reverting to childhood in the process. Brian gets his own radio gig, an intellectual endeavor ... until Stewie jumps aboard and turns it into a show that would make Howard Stern blush. 6:30 PM on TROP

Hope & Faith

In an effort to prove to Hope (Faith Ford) that she can be responsible, Faith (Kelly Ripa) takes custody of one of those electronic dolls that acts like a real infant. She's doing great ... until she accidentally swaps the bogus baby for someone's flesh-and-blood one. Ted McGinley also stars in "The Dolly Mama." 7:30 PM on CMT

CSI: NY

Time travel? Are they serious? In this episode, a dying man confesses to a murder. Only thing is, it hasn't taken place yet. When the crime occurs a full 24 hours later, Mac (Gary Sinise) and his team start looking into whether time travel is scientifically possible. Sounds as if someone's been watching too much "Doctor Who," but it makes for an interesting change from the usual "CSI" formula. Melina Kanakaredes also stars in "Time's Up." 8 PM on CFCN

Khloe Kardashian, socialite Kim's 24-year-old younger sister, is headed to jail this week to start serving a 30-day sentence for probation violation stemming from a DUI charge she notched back in March 2007. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Celebrity Buzz

Twain focuses on music, kid

RELATIONSHIPS Two months after her split from producer-songwriter husband, Robert "Mutt" Lange, Shania Twain has found strength in the two things that mean the most to her — her six-year-old son, Eja D'Angelo, and her music, *People.com* reports.

"She's spending as much time with Eja as possible and hasn't put down her guitar since the split," a source close to singer says. "The songs are pouring out of her."

No doubt some of them — like many great country songs — are inspired by heartache. Twain, 42, announced her separation from Lange, 59, in May, after she found out about his alleged affair with one of her best friends.

Twain is also keeping

busy shopping and travelling. The now-single singer was recently spotted buying lingerie at a Holt Renfrew store in her native Canada. She's also been to the Caribbean, where she has a villa, and to Switzerland, where she and Lange once lived together.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Love lashes out at Corgan

DISPUTE Courtney Love has publicly slammed Smashing Pumpkins frontman Billy Corgan over his alleged refusal to attend her daughter's forthcoming birthday party, *femalefirst.co.uk* reports.

Love reportedly unleashed a tirade at the musician on a social forum website, accusing him of making her daughter Frances Bean cry after choosing not to attend her "Sweet 16" celebrations next month.

Corgan reportedly grew close to the teen when he moved into Love's Los Angeles home in 2006 in a bid to help relaunch her music career.

But Love is adamant the rocker won't have any more communication with Frances — the daughter of late Nirvana icon Kurt Cobain — and has branded Corgan's behaviour "unacceptable."

"A sweet 16 is a big event and I think she looked upon you as family," Love writes in the blog.

Love also claims My Chemical Romance will be playing at the party.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Milano swears off baseball players

RELATIONSHIPS Alyssa Milano has sworn off dating baseball players, because they are too childish, *imdb.com* reports.

The actress admits she is a huge fan of the sport, and even dreams of being a star slugger.

But, after dating Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Brad Penny and Atlanta Braves star Tom Glavine, she's determined to court more mature men, like her current mystery beau, known only as "David."

Milano says, "They are grown men playing a little boy's sport. That makes them childish."

The actress, who has designed a range of Major League Baseball-approved sports-

wear and has her own baseball blog, admits she's such a huge fan of the sport, she dreams up game scenarios when she's trying to get to sleep.

She adds, "My stress reliever is usually baseball. In fact, sometimes when I can't sleep — because my mind is racing — I close my eyes and think about being at the stadium. I create game-winning situations."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



celebrity brief

Doherty could be returning to 90210

IN DEVELOPMENT Shannen Doherty could be returning to 90210, her rep has confirmed to *usmagazine.com*.

"Yes, Shannen is in discussions with the CW to be on the new Beverly Hills 90210," her rep tells *Us*. Entertainment Weekly first reported that the actress, 37, met with producers to reprise her role as Brenda Walsh on the spin-off.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Moore refuses to give up racy roles

MOVIES Actress Julianne Moore is refusing to cut down on racy movie roles to spare her kids' feelings, insisting she is happy to be an embarrassing mom, *imdb.com* reports.

The star's latest film, *Savage Grace*, features a three-in-a-bed love scene, and Moore admits she doesn't consider her family's reaction when she accepts a part in a movie.

She says, "I'm aware that my kids will one day see my films and might think they are a bit arch (embarrassing), especially the nude scenes. But, there's always a point in a kid's life when they hate their mother." **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Tyra named hard-working in poll

CAREER Tyra Banks has been named the hardest-working person in show business in a new online poll, *imdb.com* reports.

The model, talk show host and TV presenter has become a min-imogul since she stepped down from the catwalk in 2006 — and now she has landed at the top of a new survey aimed at finding America's hardest-working celebrity.

Banks beat American Idol host and DJ Ryan Seacrest, Jennifer Lopez, Heidi Klum and Sean Combs to claim the top spot on Parade.com's annual Summer Pop Culture poll.

The poll also claimed Oprah Winfrey as the celebrity most people would like as a next-door neighbour and Nicole Richie beat Mel Gibson and Tom Cruise to become the celebrity with the Most Improved Reputation.

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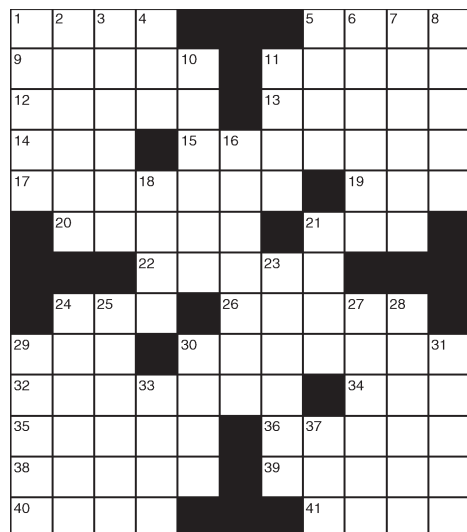
To sign up or for more information call 403.539.4952

Reprising Role

Jack Black, right, will reunite with director Richard Linklater to reprise his role as substitute teacher Dewey Finn in a sequel to 2005's hit comedy *School Of Rock*. **E! NEWS ONLINE**



Take Five



Crossword down

- 1 Feeds the pigs
- 2 Door parts
- 3 Unbroken
- 4 Soup veggie
- 5 Look after
- 6 Oddball
- 7 Released
- 8 Abounds
- 10 Bubble, e.g.
- 11 2000 Super Bowl champs
- 16 Household tool
- 18 River floater
- 21 Sassy
- 23 Heart
- 24 Secant's reciprocal
- 25 Online program
- 27 Eventually
- 28 Tentative inquiry
- 29 Louvre setting
- 30 Immense
- 31 Manmade fibre
- 33 Towel embroidery
- 37 Like '60s fashion

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Eating habits will make trouble in transit. Tag along with someone who has something to say. You'll be more independent in the future.

TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21
A hidden agenda creates an escalation of conflict. You are the focus of attention. Don't trip over your second thoughts.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21
Uncertainty comes into play. A woebegone woman has won the final round. An irrational oddball creates another drama.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22
Tantalizing secrets will be enjoyed. A friend's gossip involves a break-up. Make your cravings known to others.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23
An erratic friend causes a mishap. Glad tidings will arrive in the afternoon. A game player is too hot to handle.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22
Stand your ground when confronted about your feelings. Lies help you to become aware. Refuse to fear an insipid idiot.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23
A surly girl needs your gratitude. An excited person will give you pleasure. Find happiness by not visiting your loved ones.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22
A bitter relative gets used to dishonesty. Foggy thinking leads to knee-jerk reactions. Visit someone before things change too much.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21
Avoid getting into a quarrel at an intersection. A scruffy guy needs help to see the future. Debate among friends will clear the air.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20
Find the source of your strongest support. A stern man is sentimental after dark. Unstable thoughts will cause distress.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18
Someone disbelieves a distressing conversation. Be subtle in your criticism of a heartrending situation. Intervention results in visits.

PISCES

FEB 19-MAR 20
A heart-to-heart talk is confusing. A weird incident leads to a problem. You won't get confused about directions.

Crossword across

- 1 Pack and send
- 5 Ninny
- 9 Script makeup
- 11 Oscar winner
- Witherspoon
- 12 Available
- 13 Biscotti flavour
- 14 Links org.
- 15 Boring
- 17 Classified stuff
- 19 — Moines
- 20 Fixed look
- 21 Seed holder
- 22 Yard surrounder
- 24 Burmese, for one
- 26 Letter stroke
- 29 Cork sound
- 30 Port creator
- 32 Paving stuff
- 34 Hot drink
- 35 Annoys
- 36 Polite Post
- 38 Like xenon
- 39 Famed lover
- 40 Filming locations
- 41 Laura of Blue Velvet

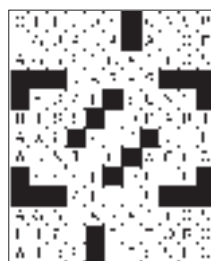
950,000

Metro readers do it daily!



SOURCE: NADbank 2007, read yesterday;
BASE: Montreal CMA, Ottawa-Gatineau CMA,
Toronto CMA, Vancouver CMA

previous day's answer



This day in history

JULY 16, 1782: First performance of Mozart's opera *The Abduction From The Seraglio*.
JULY 16, 1880: Dr. Emily Howard Stowe becomes the first woman licensed to practice medicine in Canada.
JULY 16, 1941: New York Yankees' Joe DiMaggio gets a hit in his 56th consecutive game.
JULY 16, 1979: Iraqi President Hasan al-Bakr resigns and is replaced by Saddam Hussein.
JULY 16, 1999: John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and sister-in-law Lauren Bessette are killed in a plane crash off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.

WEEKLY CD GIVEAWAY!

SLOAN

This week you can win: **SLOAN: Parallel Play**

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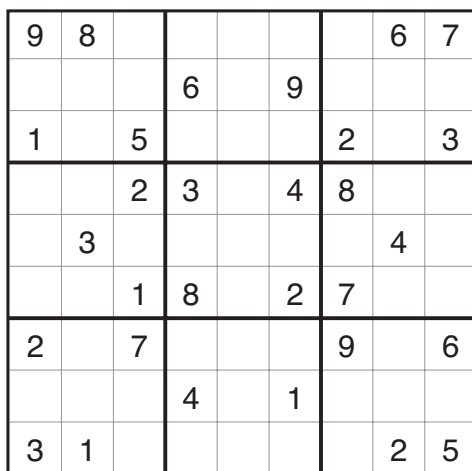
Contest closes on July 20, 2008 at midnight

metro Do it daily.

Rick Talks Funny

Metro Canada's own Rick McGinnis debates TV comedy.

TONIGHT at 8pm on Q, CBC Radio One



Sudoku

INSTRUCTIONS:

The digits 1 through 9 will appear exactly once in each row, each column, and each zone. (A zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine of these zones in the puzzle.) Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same 3x3 zone, or in the same row across the puzzle, or column down the puzzle.

SOLVE TIME IN MINUTES:

Under 13 Genius
13-17 Scholar
17-21 Smart

previous day's answer

1	9	3	6	8	5	4	2	7
5	4	8	2	7	3	1	6	9
2	7	6	9	4	1	5	3	8
8	2	9	1	5	6	3	7	4
7	1	5	4	3	2	8	9	6
6	3	4	8	9	7	2	5	1
3	8	7	5	6	4	9	1	2
9	5	2	7	1	8	6	4	3
4	6	1	3	2	9	7	8	5

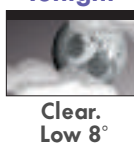
21-25 Not bad
25+ Keep practicing

Calgary weather

Afternoon



Tonight



Thursday



Friday



Saturday



Temperature Normals
High: 23.5°
Low: 9.4°

Records
High: 35°/1919
Low: 1.2°/1999

Sunrise: 5:40 a.m.
Sunset: 9:43 p.m.
Moonset: 3:30 a.m.
Moonrise: 9:16 p.m.

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